

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
July/August 2001



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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
September 28th**

**September 16th
Cork Rally in Blarney**

**February 24th 2001
Phoenix Euro Rally in Coolmine**

**March 2/3rd 2002
IRTS AGM in Knock, Co. Mayo**

**April 6th 2002
Limerick Rally
at the Limerick Inn**

**IRTS
Committee Meeting**

**Shamrock Lodge Hotel
Athlone**

**Saturday September 15th
At 1100**



The crew who operated EJ4GK in the IOTA Contest on Inishmore in July
L to R: Kohei EI8JC/JR0BAQ; Mark EI7FNB; Declan EI9HQ; Sean EI4GK and
Joe EI7GY.

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IRTS Subscriptions to increase

Having remained unchanged for eight years, it has now become necessary to adjust all IRTS subscriptions upwards. A discussion on the finances of the Society took place at the AGM and a proposal from the floor that the subscriptions be increased was passed without dissent. Although every effort is made to ensure that costs are kept under very tight control, the inevitable pressure of rising inflation has caused the Society's finances to fall into deficit.

With membership levels static, or falling, and no alternative source of income on the horizon, that deficit can only increase in future years – unless action is taken.

Subscriptions Rates will be increased on the following basis:

Members Resident in EI

	From 1 st Oct. 2001	From 1 st Jan. 2002
Licensed Member:	£20	€25
Shortwave Listener	£16	€20
Club or Society	£20	€25
Family Membership	£30	€38
Concessionary	£10	€13

Members resident outside EI

All categories	IR £18/ Stg £16/ \$30	€23/ Stg £15/ \$30
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Reminder notices in respect of subscriptions due in the months of October, November and December 2001 will be mailed in mid-September.

Members who pay subscriptions due in those months before 1st October 2001 may avail of the old rates.

The Committee regrets the fact that it is necessary to increase subscriptions but believes that this is absolutely necessary if the services of the Society are to be maintained at least at their present level.

Sean Donelan EI4GK
Treasurer

PMR 446

Short Range Business Radio in the Band 446 – 446.1MHz

Handportables for voice communications are exempt from licensing under the following conditions.

Handportables must have an integral antenna.

Maximum ERP = 0.5 watts.

Handportables must use CTCSS or DCS Tone Control.

Handportables must operate on a Channel Spacing of 12.5kHz.

Handportables must be programmed for Single Frequency Operation on the following channels: 446.00625, 446.01875, 446.03125, 446.04375, 446.05625, 446.06875, 446.08125 and 446.09375MHz.

Operation is on a non-interference and on a non-protected basis.

For further information or clarification please contact:

Licensing Division, Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation,
Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 8049616 Fax: 01 8049665

Note:

There is no category of licence exempt in the PMR Bands: 68-88, 156-174, 410-430 and 450-470MHz

Silent Key Chet Atkins W4CGP

Guitar picker, music legend and Amateur Radio operator Chester "Chet" Atkins, W4CGP, of Nashville, Tennessee, died June 30. He was 77.

Known as "Mister Guitar," Atkins hailed from East Tennessee and began his musical career playing fiddle, but later earned his reputation as a guitarist. He went on to become the most-recorded solo instrumental musician in history.

Formerly WA4CZD, Atkins, a General licensee, obtained the vanity call sign W4CGP in 1998--the suffix standing for "certified guitar picker."

He was an ARRL member.

He won 14 Grammy awards during his career and was elevated to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1973.

He was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993 by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in part to recognize his guitar-picking technique as well as his wide influence on music.

He had more than 100 albums to his credit.

In addition to his own success as a performer, Atkins helped launch the careers of other notable performers.

He is given primary credit for developing the uptown Nashville Sound that helped country music to compete with pop music.

In his later years of performing, he sometimes paired up with musicians from the pop and jazz worlds and was a frequent guest on the radio program "A Prairie Home Companion."

A funeral service for Chet Atkins was held July 3 in Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, which formerly served as the home of The Grand Ole Opry where Atkins performed for many years.

More information on Chet Atkins is on the Chet Atkins, Mister Guitar Web site <http://www.misterguitar.com/index.html>.

On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

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Welcome to another On The Air column.

We're now well into Summer HF conditions which normally mean that the MUF (Maximum Useable Frequency) is depressed and the higher bands like 10m can only offer Sporadic E -type openings. This happens because the sun is higher in the sky and heats the ionosphere causing it to thin and lower the MUF during the longer daylight hours. Of course it also brings the 2m and 6m bands alive with Sporadic-E openings and the month of July brought many openings into Europe, Africa and even VK's were heard and worked from the UK!

On July 1st at 10:49utc GW4VEQ heard VK6JQ briefly at 419 RST but lost the signal quickly while on the same day Charlie, EI5FK and Tony, EI2FSB, both worked EB8BTV and EA8BPX on the Canary Islands at 13:35utc on the 2m band with Charlie doing the same on 70cms!

Later that week on July 7th G3FYM reported working VK8PS at RS 44 at 19:07utc, a nice taste of what the "Magic" band can offer.

July also saw the ARRL introduce a 12m single band DXCC award beginning on July 2nd and while awards will not be numbered they will be dated so time to search the biscuit tins and shoe boxes for those 24 MHz QSO's.

New DXCC Update

With regard to last issue's story about a potential new DXCC Entity in the guise of Ducie Island in the Pitcairn Group, the newly formed Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association have announced that it will undertake an IOTA DX-pedition to Ducie Island starting at 00:00UTC on November 16th 2001.

As the IARU societies have until November 15th to submit their ballots for Pitcairn's membership into the IARU, if the vote is successful then Ducie Island will be added to the DXCC Entity list on Nov 16th at 00:00UTC. The trip will be led by newly appointed president of PIARU Tom, VP6TC, other ops include: VP6DB, VP6BK/JA1BK, VP6BB/JA1SLS, JF1IST, and other ops to be named. QSL's will be via VE3HO.

A recent story ran in some UK newspapers about the possibility of opening up the Pitcairn Islands to tourism proper

with the building of two airports, establishing its own airline and a four-star hotel! Least it should make getting there a bit easier than having to endure a long sea crossing on cargo ships.

Band Reports

Despite the summer doldrums by day-time some good DX was to be found.

9U5TE appeared a few times from Burundi which became a bit rare in the last couple of years when it was found that licenses issued to visiting Amateurs were forgeries and not acceptable for DXCC by the ARRL! Now the same thing might have happened in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire and not to be confused with Congo, TN-land). For the past couple of weeks Pierre, 9Q5BQ, has been very active on all bands and modes but apparently Amateur Radio has been suspended in DRC for several years and it was during the IARU contest that an officially sanctioned station came on using the call 9Q0AR. When the operators queried about other 9Q call signs they received this response from the Secretary General of the PTT of Democratic Republic of Congo. Translated into English it basically says "I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 25 June 2001 relative to the subject and thank you for it. In accordance with certain stations transmitting on HF frequencies reserved for the Amateur Service under the calls 9Q5BQ and 9Q/CX2CC from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and following the report of listening to 9Q5BQ on June 24 2001, we are really surprised. I confirm to you not to have delivered license of Amateur Service to anyone with the calls. Thus all these radios amateurs emitting are quite simply pirate stations."

Prefix hunters were kept happy with 5K3CA turning up from Colombia to celebrate the "Copa Americas" football tournament. One of the smallest DXCC Entities Market Reef (OJO) proved to be a very popular destination for the IARU contest with about six or more ops coming on before and after the contest with their own calls, amongst those worked were OJ0/AH7X, OJ0/JH1ARJ, OJ0/JR4PMX and OJ0/OE1ZKC. Call sign used during the contest was OJ0U; Market Reef is one of these peculiar places that managed to get on the separate

DXCC status due to the rules years ago, the border between Sweden and Finland runs right down the middle of the reef but the Swedish part is between mainland Finland and the Finish part of Market Reef and at that time the rule was if another country lay between any piece of land/island and the parent country then it could gain separate DXCC! Same way we have UA2-Kaliningrad. Luckily a bit of sanity prevailed and some new rules including the minimum 350kms separation distance came into being before any other pieces of rocks and sandbars got on the list (just don't mention rocks like Scarborough Reef hi!).

Charly, K4VUD, popped up from another Asian country as VU3CHE, you might have worked Charly when he was QRV from Nepal, 9N7UD, Bhutan, A52UD, and Thailand, HS0ZCW. He also flew out to the Andaman Islands, VU4, but could not get permission to operate from this rarest of the rare. You can imagine the frustration of standing in one of the rarest DXCC and only there for sightseeing!

Surprise DX was TI2HFM/TI9 who said he was a gamekeeper for Costa Rica's Parks Administration out on Cocos Island for a tour of duty, brush up on your Spanish for this one.

The German operation from Cambodia as XU7ABR, XU7ABS, XU7ABT, XU7ABU and XU7ABV were very active and quite loud on 20m well into the early hours, the almost weekly new IOTA Reference numbers been issued continued, newest addition being IOTA SA-089 as 4M1X came on from another new island as part of their now yearly trips to Venezuela's off-shore islands to celebrate "Navy Day".

With my own log being a bit sparse I was hoping to receive some other band reports and luckily I managed to get three other EI's to give me a log extract on what they're working so first up is Barry, EI2IO, who's well set up with a Kenwood TS-940S, barefoot, into a Cushcraft R7000 multi-band vertical.

I got a very good log extract from Denis, EI6HB, who after obtaining DXCC with wire dipoles over the years finally joined the "Big League" (hi!) by installing a 70ft crank up mast and crowning it with a Force 12 C3SS tri-bander beam.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

10m

Starting off with 28MHz, which despite the afore-mentioned summer doldrums conditions, Barry managed to pull out 4Z8GZ, OD5RZ, UA2FZ, YB0A and ZC4RAF. The 4Z8 is a prefix allocated to visiting Amateurs to Israel. Denis offers 9G0ARS, 9K2ZZ, A41LZ, C6/WB8N, DS5USH, JW0HR, N4CD/TI, SU/ZS6WPX, TU2KC, V51AS, VU2XO, and various YB/YC stations from Indonesia.

12m

Since Force 12 use a trapless design sometimes their beams can be tuned up on 12m and 17m as Denis managed to work A41KJ, HK3JJH, OD5NJ, SU/ZS6WPX and V51AS.

15m

A nice, large log extract from EI2IO was sent for 15m of which I've picked out these: 4S7SW, 7Z1AC, 9V1WW, BX5AA, ED9GRM, HS1NGR, JW6VJA, PJ2T, TG9NX, TR8CX, VR2KW, and VU2SBJ. Denis turned in a nice log for fifteen: 3A2LU, 3W2LC, 3W7D, 5A1A, 9G0ARS, 9M2TO, 9V1JA, BD4XA, BX5AA, DU1UGZ, EP3SMH, FW5ZL, HS1NGR, JT1CO, JW7FJA, JX3EX, T77C, TU2XZ, ZA1E and ending up with ZB2JS/M.

20m

Ending up with twenty which shows 6Y5/K2KW, D44AC, HS0ZCW and JW1BR safely in the log. Denis offers: 3V8SM, 3W2NWS, 4S7BRG, BA4CH, D44AC, KL7IDA, and OJ0VR.

Next up is Chuck, EI4IS, who has a superb location perched up about 300ft on the cliffs overlooking Cork Harbour. Chuck also uses a Kenwood TS940S, again barefoot, into a Cushcraft X7 tri-bander beam up at 27ft. The log is mainly of 20m QSO'S with some IOTA stations thrown in; guess the island chasing bug is biting! Some of the choice DX: CP5JI, DL1HSF/P (EU-057), FP5BZ, HS0/IK4MRH (AS-053), J88CD, KP2/W4MI, LA9VBA (EU-036), TF3AO, VE2MAM/P (NA-125). Interesting to note that all our three contributors only run 100 watts barefoot, my thanks to Barry, Denis and Chuck for sending in their logs and hopefully it'll encourage more of you to do the same especially those active on 6m and higher!

Looking Ahead

Lots of activity planned for the next few months so down to business. With regard to the item in the last issue about Mike, GM0HCQ, popping up from South Georgia (VP8) the good news is

that he's heading back down there on the research vessel Ernest Shackleton and should be QRV as GM0HCQ/MM while on route starting off on October 10th and has hopes to come on from the other rare VP8 DXCC South Orkney. Tony, IK7WUL, will sign A52UL from Bhutan and will try to activate the club callsign A51AA.

Gunter, DL2AWG, heads off to the Pacific again starting with the South Cook Islands with the call ZK1AWG between Aug 21-29 and ending up on Fiji as 3D2AW from Aug 31-Sep 8.

A group of French ops will be QRV from Benin (TY) between Aug 11-29, no call announced yet.

Unfortunately September starts with the cancellation of a DX-pedition as Bill, VK4FW, says that he cannot find enough operators for a trip to the Chesterfield Islands (FK0/TX0) that was scheduled for Sept 1-19!

No such problems with members of EA4URE heading this time for Guatemala to install a packet network and 2m communications system, they hope to be active on all bands as TG0R from Sept 17-26.

Staying with Central America Hiro, JA6WFM, has just started a one-year work assignment in Honduras using the call HR2WFM.

Keeping the single-op trip alive Jacky, FR5ZU, will be QRV once again from Tromelin Island (FR/T) as FR5ZU/T from Sept 6 to Oct 5. Tromelin is one of these tiny dots of land that France hold claim to in the Indian Ocean, its other "cousins" being Europa (FR/E), Glorioso (FR/G) and Juan De Nova (FR/J). As these are protected wildlife sanctuaries permission is extremely difficult to obtain but Jacky works at some of the Metrological stations established on the islands.

Their near neighbour Mauritius, 3B8, will be on air when Jose, ON4LAC, does some casual operating as 3B8/ON4LAC between Oct 16-Dec 6.

As the D68C QSL cards are going out at a fair rate Phil, G3SWH, is making a break for sunnier climes again and despite heavy travelling throughout Madagascar hopes to find time to be QRV as his first choice of callsign 5R8WH from Sep 15-20 with a planned operation from Ile Ste Marie (IOTA AF-090).

Saipan in the Northern Mariana's Islands seems to be a popular destination with JA's as JF1MIA heads there between Oct 26-29 holding the call KH0A, then almost a month later JF2SKV will be on air as NH0S from Nov 22-26.

Island hopping seems to agree with Pierre, HB9QQ, as he makes another trip to the Maldives from the last week in October through to the first week in November again using the call 8Q7QQ. Closer to home watch out for Chris, G0WFH, who will be on that tax haven island of Jersey (GJ/MJ) as GH4BJC/P.

Finally if you thought that EI was rare on the bands then the recently released DXCC's most wanted of which we printed the Top 20 last issue shows Ireland as number #295 out of a total of 332 DXCC Entities.

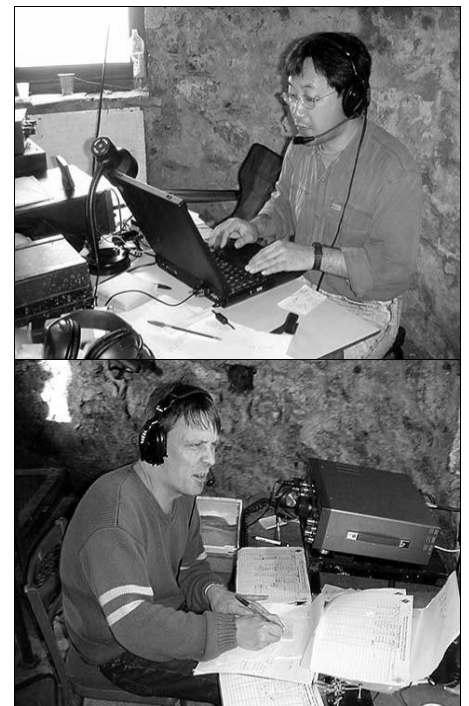
Leading the bottom as the most worked country is not surprisingly Italy while other countries less sought after than us include: Chile (CE) at #296, Israel (4X) at #301, interestingly Alaska (KL7) falls at #304, and we'd think of Alaska as good enough DX from here!

The mainland part of the UK falls in at, respectively, at #306 Wales (GW), Scotland (GM) #307, and England (G) at #329.

To finish up, the "Heavyweights" in terms of numbers of operators hold pride of place as follows: USA at #310, Germany (DL) at #317, Japan (JA) at #328 and second last ahead of the Italians are the French (F) at #331.

Good to know we can still cause pile-ups from all the above hi! .

Until next issue, with thanks to the Daily DX, Keep Listening. 73 de EI2HY.



Kohei EI8JC/JR0BAQ (top) and Mark EI7FNB operating at the EJ4GK IOTA Contest station on Inishmore. (See page 15 for story)

Try the European Sprint Contest

By Joe Ryan EI7GY (jryan@iol.ie)

I can't make up my mind whether or not I like contests.

Against them, they are often blamed for clogging up the bands at weekends, just when most of us have the best opportunity to operate. Like many others, I find it easy to get annoyed at a high power station hogging a frequency (sometimes outside the band plan) for hours on end, calling "CQ Contest".

In their favour, contests encourage a high level of activity, they help to hone operating skills and, for the DX chaser, they often provide easy access to rare prefixes and DXCC countries.

The European Sprint Contest, which I came across recently, is as "environmentally friendly" as a contest can be. It lasts for just 4 hours, is limited to 3 bands and the calling station must QSY after making a contact.

The EU Sprint Gang (I2UIY, OK2FD, DL6RAI, and G4BUO) organized the first European Sprint contests in 1994. There are now two SSB and two CW contests every year - the next SSB one is on 6th October 2001, the next CW one a week later on 13th October,

The contests run from 15:00 UTC to 18:59 UTC, and cover 20, 40 and 80 metres only. The real difference in these contests is that the calling station can only work one station on the same frequency.

There is also a requirements for both stations to repeat both call signs, and for stations to give their name or a nickname as part of the exchange.

All in all, it adds up to quite a different contest - more friendly, with less of an emphasis on output power and aggressiveness than in many of the international contests.

The fact that the contest is for four hours only makes it feasible for anyone to have a go. (The contest is for single operators only.)

The detailed rules can be obtained from the web site of Paolo Cortese I2UIY at http://loja.kkn.net/~i2uiy/EU_ru_DX.html (note that it is essential to use the mix of upper and lower case in the directory and file name, as shown here; to make it easier, I have included a link to the site in the SDR links page - see <http://www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/> and go to the links page.

Logging for this contest is easy, using EI5DI's Super Duper, which has an option for the EU Sprint.

Within a few weeks of the closing date, all entrants receive their scores, along with a list of the QSOs marked as errors, and the reasons for these errors - these guys are very efficient!

Colourful certificates are issued to the winners of each Sprint, and to the leaders in each country. A special plaque is also be awarded for the top three scores from all four contests combined.

To be eligible for this award an operator must enter at least three of the Sprints in the year.

Mannin Bay Connemara

Radio amateurs from Galway went on DXpedition to remote Mannin Bay, south of Clifden.

They operated on the site from the 7th to 14th of July.

Conditions were excellent on the H.F. bands with contacts to west coast USA, Japan, China, Australia, Korea, Africa and Middle East.

C.W. SSB and packet were all used on HF. The antennas were a Windom at 40 feet and a multi band vertical at 20 feet. A 5 element beam for 50MHz was put on a separate push up tower.

Several contacts were made to southern Europe and to EI.

The stormy weather was not kind for antennas or sunbathing but walking on the empty beaches was a joy in itself. The house is only accessible by driving for one mile across the beach.

Operators were Aengus EI4ABB, Tom EI3ER, Stan EI7DGB, Ciaran EI8IH, Damian EI2HG and Richard EI5GC.

EI - 7X First on 2 metres

On 6th July 2001 Charles Coughlan EI5FK worked 7X2LS in Algeria North Africa on 144 MHz at 1849 GMT via Sporadic E.

This is the first time Algeria was worked from Ireland on this band. He also worked EB6AOK in the Belaric Islands.

EI5FK reports a lot less openings on Sporadic E this year, in 2000 he worked 15 "E" openings on 144 MHz

Charles was running 50 watts into a nine element Yagi.

Limerick Radio Club

The Limerick Radio Club would like to thank the Phoenix Radio Club for their hospitality shown on Thursday 16 May to Maurice EI6AAB and Richard EI3FHB.

Both Maurice and Richard travelled to Dublin to sit their Morse exam and they are awaiting with crossed fingers for a successful result.

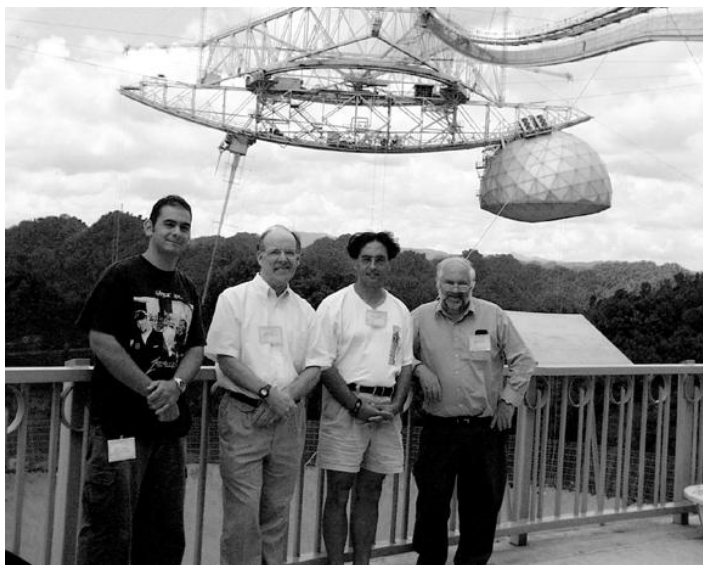
We would also like to thank Brendan EI0CZ and Mike EI2IX for organising and running the Morse classes that were held in Limerick.

The Limerick Radio Club will start meeting again shortly after the summer recess. Details will be announced shortly.



EJ3HB Crew on Clear Island for IOTA 2001

Peter EI4GV in Arecibo, Puerto Rico



In the picture below, Peter Vekinis, EI4GV operates his handheld on the 70cm band from the prime focus location.

The moon was being tracked at the time. At 71db gain, the ERP was in the order of megawatts! No answer was received though (luckily, it was a maintenance day for the telescope).

Pictures courtesy of Daniel Altschuler (pic #1) and Peter Vekinis (Pic#2).

More info on the telescope and the science it does can be found at www.naic.edu and more information on Peter Vekinis at <http://vekinis.org.lu>



Peter P. Vekinis
e-mail: peter@t12.org
web sites: t12.org or vekinis.org.lu

At the famous Arecibo, Puerto Rico radio telescope site were gathered about 60 radio astronomy students and teachers from eminent radio observatories around the world.

With the famous prime focus in the background are (left to right): Homero Cersosimo, WP3HN, Rick Fisher, KE8DH, Peter Vekinis, EI4GV/LX1QF/KC1QF and Darrel Emerson, G3SYS/AA7FV (others not pictured included Jim Condon, AD4YM and Michael Nicholls, KC2HUL.

Rick Fisher, is famous in the Astronomy world, for the Fisher-Tully equation which is used to determine galaxy distances.

The week was held in June and covered two days of radio related instruction and 3 days devoted to astronomy.

Frequencies covered included 70cm (430MHz where the Arecibo dish studies planets) to millimetre waves (up to 850GHz).

In the picture, the silver dome contains three floors of feeds for all the bands except 430MHz, which is the waveguide at the left (looks like a rod and captures waves arriving from the spherical surface below and using phase delays provides a coherently constructive signal from the 305 meter dish below).

There 2 transmitters that both have 1.5 Mega watt power amplified by 61db gain for a phenomenal ERP.

The platform is held by 10 inch thick steel cables and is so steady that there is no movement whatsoever when you are on it.

Clear Island for IOTA

EJ3HB operated from Clear Island in west Cork for the recent IOTA contest.

In excess of 1400 QSO's were made over the twenty four hours.

The following made the trip; EI5GM, EI4IS, EI1CS, LY2BPL, EI8IM from Chicago /Daniel from the SDR club and Tom and Alan from the Cork Radio Club who are currently waiting for their theory exam results.

A great time was had and much experience was gained by all.

Letters Page

Dear Editor

I am responding to the letter from EI3DIB, published in the last issue, firstly in my capacity as the IRTS radio news editor, secondly, in my capacity as the secretary of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and thirdly as an individual radio amateur.

As regards your comment: "when I finally received this weeks script", may I point out that the script was mailed on Wednesday along with everyone else's. If there is a problem with your e-mail, it is important that I know about it as early in the week as possible, this will give me enough time to re-mail it. John states that the date was wrong on the news. I also noticed that he commented on it (to great length) on the air. To change the date on the news would have taken about 5 seconds, this requires a lot less energy than the amount that expended by complaining about it.

May I also point out that this is the first time I used the wrong date in over 25 editions of the radio news. I think that's pretty good going.

You will notice a much bigger error in this week's news (fortunately, I distributed a correction for this as soon as it was pointed out to me). May I add that this was pointed out to me in a non-sarcastic manner and purely with the intention of allowing me time to send out a correction.

"John states; *"In its entirety it was an advert for a WEBSIGHT they have established and the facilities it provides"*

Okay, this is a fair point, however, I totally stand by the article on the website and this is NOT an advert as such and even if it is, then I still stand by my decision to air it in the news. It is information about a service which SEARG provides 'free of charge' to any radio amateur or short wave listener who wants to use it. If you don't want to use it, then don't.

I will publish it anyway so that those who do find it useful will know of its existence. Not only that, any other changes made to the site that I think people might like to know about will also be published in future editions of the news. Likewise, if any club or society sends me information on their websites, I will publish that in the news also. If you think that you have something that is more newsworthy, then why don't

you submit it for the news.

John states *"but I wonder if anyone else like me can see the subtle changes it is indicating in our hobby? Perhaps I have a longer memory than some and perhaps I long for the good old days of real Live Chats to other like minded people."*

Yes John, you have a point here, in fact you could probably muster up a world wide army of supporters on this one and my thinking on this is that modern technology has made, not subtle, but drastic changes to our hobby.

This I can not argue with, however in my opinion (and remember this is just an opinion, condemn it if you will but I will stand by it just as you are entitled to stand by yours) some of these changes have been for the better. You see, the internet is not going to go away, it is here for good whether we like it or not, however, we as radio amateurs can choose to fight against it (which would be a bit like trying to command back the tide) or we can embrace it and use it to our advantage. The latter option makes more sense to me!

As I teach theory classes for the Class B licence here in Waterford, I do make a serious effort to advertise the fact that the classes are going to take place. I put it in the radio news, local radio, newspapers, cabletext etc. Of course I also post it on the internet. Now one or two people who sat that exam last year and passed would not even have known about the classes if it weren't for the internet. I also received some excellent educational material for the classes from a radio amateur in Australia, thanks to the internet.

Yes, real live chats would be nice but then again, I have a lot of real live chats on the radio both with the mike and the key. In fact, most of the amateur radio related websites and message forums that I see on the web are telling like minded people how to build, repair or operate radio, it tells them how to optimise their practices to find the best DX, in fact the list is endless. I have never seen a site that discourages the use of a m a t e u r r a d i o .

"In the early days of Packet there was a great flurry of activity, then came the complaints of a lack of real live listeners and automated this and that, now we have the same with The Internet, the great activity and rush to have everything and somewhere in the dust and

smoke of it all the PTT and Mike or the CW Key has got lost."

Remember, this is an old argument now. Cars don't make bicycles obsolete, just as bicycles didn't make walking obsolete. Technology advances, but older methods will always have their place. When packet came along, everyone said that it would kill 'real radio', but then again, they said the same when television was invented. Now we have the internet, satellites, mobile phones, PDA's etc. Yet I'm encouraged as a radio amateur when I find it difficult to find a clear frequency on the CW portion of 'Forty'.

I do find it difficult to understand how someone can defend packet radio while they condemn the flaws of more modern technologies.

We as radio amateurs are experimenters, if we just want to use the same mode all the time, then we should go back to the days of CB radio. Don't get me wrong, I really enjoyed CB and learned a lot from it, but my interests in radio superseded it and along came the time to move on to amateur radio.

We should embrace modern technologies and integrate them into our hobby. You probably assume that I'm an avid fan of the internet and you would be right, why wouldn't I be, I make a living from it. However, the form of communication which I get most pleasure from and am actively involved in is CW.

"Today it is almost impossible to contact anyone unless you have the Dread Email and a PC with a Modem is essential, The CW Key has been replaced by the QWERTY Keyboard and the Mike and Loudspeaker by the PC Monitor."

Maybe some people would like to see a return to traditional mail and older methods of doing things, but where do they draw the line. Should we completely go back to smoke signals or if we are really that anti-progression, why don't we just go back to primitive times before we had the power of language.

"Not everyone has or even wants the Internet,"

This is very true. But then again I don't remember anyone saying that the internet is compulsory.

"Ham radio is just that? R-A-D-I-O!!!"

We study and take a test, then pay for a
(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

license and equipment to use RADIO so why do we not do just that? Use it or lose it !!! Come down to this area and listen around the frequency and if you are very lucky you may hear someone, once it was "BREAK!" required to get a word in edgewise and now you may well be greeted by 'Silence'!!!"

I don't see the connection. Radio is radio and the internet is the internet. Why can't we use both? People who fly planes can also drive cars if they so wish. People who use electric kettles can also use telephones if they so wish. People who read books can also use washing machines if they so wish. People who use amateur radio apparatus can also use the internet if they so wish.

"My conscience is at me for I wonder have we taken a wrong turn some place and is this Hobby of ours really past its prime and like our forefathers soon to be found only in history book? Do you even know where the Mike is to be found and how to use it, if so then Please DO!!!

Trying to keep the spoken word on Ham Radio ALIVE!"

You probably spend a lot more time using the keyboard than you do the mike, I'm pretty sure that you don't use CW much either. Don't take this the wrong way, as you know I have nothing against computers but whether you use the keyboard for packet or internet you are not keeping the spoken word on ham radio alive.

Best 73's de Mark Wall, EI7IS

Dear Editor,

I read with interest Joe Ryan's letter on the Morse Test, and the 'What are they on about now?' column on the workings of the IRTS committee. Two questions come to mind on reading this latter article.

1. What exactly does 'no overall demand for change' mean. Does it mean a simple majority to change among the committee members or are the goalposts for change higher than a simple majority ie 51%?
2. Do the committee members primarily represent themselves or do they try to represent the views of the members?

If they are trying to represent the views of the members then perhaps the best thing to do would be to hold some sort of poll of the members. Perhaps the clubs around the coun-

try could be asked to elicit the views of their members and these results could form the basis of an informed discussion among the committee members of the IRTS.

Eamonn Gibson EI9DUB

News Bulletin on CW

**Sundays at 1030
on 7.032MHz**

Sent by Pat EI9EZ

Seen & Heard

With Dave, EI4BZ

- Joe EI3HM has a new 50 foot tower and three element beam at his QTH in Inverin in Connemara. The tower and Yagi were erected by Joe and Richard EI5GC. Expect cupla focal as gaeilge anois.
- Some queries have arisen on IRCs received from the USA with stamps attached. The extra postage on IRC's purchased in the U.S. makes up the difference in the current cost versus the amount printed on the IRCs. In other words, the price has gone up since they were printed; thus, the extra postage
- Con Murphy VK6PM/EI7ID, a life member of IRTS is scheduled to be in Ireland, mostly in the Dublin area during September and is looking forward to meeting some EI's especially in the Rathfarnham area as he lived in 46 Marian Grove for 14 years as EI9S from 1955 to 69). Keep a listen for him on 2 metres.
- Stan EI5IY was scheduled to operating from the Mizen Lighthouse - EI4ML for the Lighthouse weekend. Because he was the only operator this year, most operation was on CW.
- James EI2IV reports on a good site from schematic diagrams and also some full service manuals for several types of ham radios and accessories and it is very up to date. http://krasnodar.online.ru/hamradio/sch_eng.html
- Pat EI4CL in Dublin reports that he recently worked SM54M on the 4 metre band. This is a first EI-SM QSO. Congrats Pat.
- The Shannon Basin Radio Club operated from the Elphin Windmill in County Roscommon on Sunday August 26th using the callsign EI2EWM.
- The WEIC Award Manager Sean Nolan EI7CD recently announced that WEIC award number 71 has been awarded to Alan Foley EI3EBB who worked the required 20 counties, all on 2 metres. Two other awards have been issued since the handbook was published and they are number 69 which went to Danny Mannion G0ORO and number 70 to Jim Murphy EI8HA.
- Congratulations to Pat Mooney EI6DA who has achieved Worked All Ireland Ultimate Award Number 2. The requirements for this are 1400 squares and 25 islands.
- Paddy EI7GK was QRV from Austria during the summer. He also made a brief diversion to Slovenia
- Ten candidates from the Cork and Waterford Clubs sat their theory exam in Waterford on August the 2nd. We believe all were successful.
- Input for this column would be appreciated to ei4bz@eircom.net or 021-4883555

EI7IQ 6 Metre Activity Award for 2000

	Name	QSO's	SQ's	DXCC	Total
1st	C. Coughlan, EI5FK	1016	408	92	38,136,576
2nd	D. Cawley, EI4IX	1060	267	66	18,679,320
3rd	T. Baldwin, EI2FSB	381	166	43	2,719,578
4th	M. Power, EI5FDB	321	156	41	2,053,116

Check Log from T. Caffrey EI7FIB

Television Breakthrough - The Practical Approach. For the VHF/UHF Operator.

by
Paul Kirkby EI6FE

In recent times the number of queries regarding problems with TVI as it is commonly known has increased.

Despite the fact that the Radio Experimenters licence could be deemed to be a technical qualification, the level of technical ability on the ground appears to be far from ideal, in particular on how to investigate the mechanism of the interference and then how to solve it.

This article hopes to set about rectifying this and to try and give a better insight to the problem. This article will be dealing only with terrestrial television reception and not cable or satellite although the principles are the same.

The first thing that you must keep in mind at all times is that even though your station is in order and conforming to the regulations attached to your licence, you are the "culprit" as far as your neighbour is concerned.

A little more on this later.

The VHF and UHF bands are quite susceptible to causing television breakthrough. All you have to do is to look at the frequency allocations for amateur bands and you will see that they are very close to the Television Broadcast bands.

Four metres was not included here, as this does not have a corresponding TV Band.

Amateur Allocation	Television Allocation
50 -52 MHz	44 – 68 MHz Band 1
144 – 146 MHz	173 – 230 MHz Band 3
430 – 440 MHz	470 – 855 MHz Bands 4 & 5

From the above it is easy to see how easy it could be to run into trouble.

Let's start with a new station, you get all fired up to start talking to the world and within hours of you operating the dreaded knock on the door arrives.

Your neighbour informs you that you are interfering with their television, they can hear you voice coming out of their television.

At this point you must exercise extreme caution and turn into a politician.

You need them on your side if you want to keep transmitting.

Explain what your about and that you are licensed by the Government.

Also explain to them that it is probably not your fault but you are more that willing to get to the bottom of it and you may need some assistance from them.

Identify what band/bands are causing the problem, what channels are been affected and if it happen at all power levels.

You may find that 100 watts on 6m is wiping out all his terrestrial channels but you are fine running 5 watts.

At least you have a feel for the problem, being able to operate 5 watts on six is better that been QRT. It gives you time to sort out the problem so that you can go QRO.

Have a look at their TV antenna.

Is it VHF or UHF or do they have both.

To explain, most of the main transmitters run RTE1 and Net 2 on the VHF Band 3 and TV3 and TG4 are on UHF. There are a number of UHF only sites.

The smaller relay stations are now mainly UHF only and may not carry TV3.

If you are not sure contact your local TV dealer or give RTE a ring and they will give you any information you require.

The UHF band is subdivided into groups and channel numbers from 21 – 69. They are as follows.

Group A	Ch 21 – Ch 37	471 – 599 MHz
Group B	Ch 37 – Ch 53	599 – 727 MHz
Group C/D	Ch 48 – Ch 68	687 – 847 MHz
Group E	Ch 37 – Ch 69	599 – 855 MHz

Now you know what frequencies you are dealing with.

Have a look at their TV pictures are they clean and of good quality or are they poor. If they are poor this will not help **again they were fine until you started transmitting – you cannot win.**

In this case you will have to help them rectify this problem. This is were it starts to hurt, its going to cost you money unless you have a very understanding neighbour. The choice is yours spend a few bob on them or stay QRT. If you're not willing to do so please don't read on.

A very important comment must be made at this juncture; access to their TV antenna is a must. If you or a friend is capable of this then please proceed. Please observe all the necessary safety precautions. Otherwise you will have to enlist the services of a local aerial installer. Neither the Society nor myself will accept any responsibility for any accidents that could occur, you climb at your own risk.

Ask yourself some simple questions:

1. Is their antenna aligned correctly, i.e. is it pointing in the right direction.
2. Is there a masthead amplifier fitted?
3. What is the condition of their antenna/coax cable
4. What else is connected to the TV?, Satellite, Video, DVD etc
5. Is the Pre-amp necessary, was it simply fitted by an unscrupulous installer.

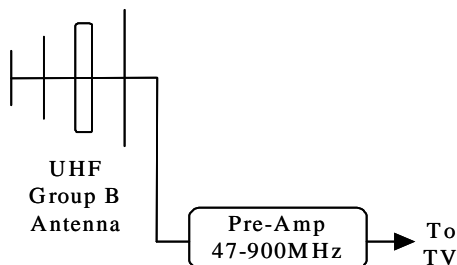
All of these are important. I would start by trying the RTE antenna connected directly to the TV. Is there still a problem? If not connect up the individual components until the source of the breakthrough is found. There is a high probability that your transmissions are getting in through their TV antenna.

While up on the roof have a go at realigning the TV antenna for maximum signal, if you do not have a signal strength meter

available you could fit an attenuator in series with the antenna to deliberately weaken the signal. These are available through Polytron and are cheap. Now re-align for maximum signal. Is their coaxial cable in good condition, it could be very old and of poor quality. It may need replacing; it could be full of water. Good quality double-screened coax is available from any TV dealer and costs around £30.00 for a 100m roll, it works out more expensive to buy by the metre.

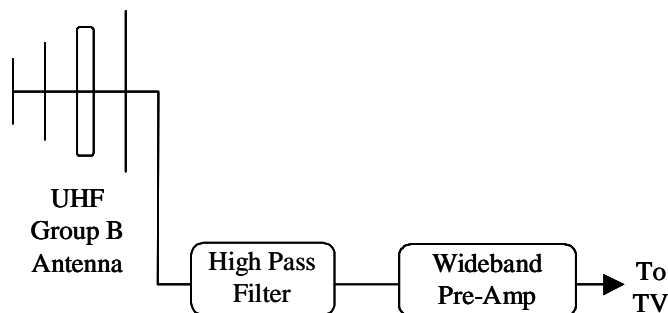
The main problem here is the masthead preamp if there is one fitted. These types of amplifiers are small signal devices and are not designed to handle large signals. They also come in many different types. The cheaper varieties are high gain typically 27dB and wideband. When I say wideband they will amplify everything from 40 MHz to 900 MHz.

This wideband nature of them is the problem. The amplifier will try and boost everything presented to its input by a factor of 500. You key up with 100w on six and guess what!, absolute chaos. The amplifier cannot do what you are asking of it and it collapses and the result is TVI. Lets have a look at a simple UHF only set up.



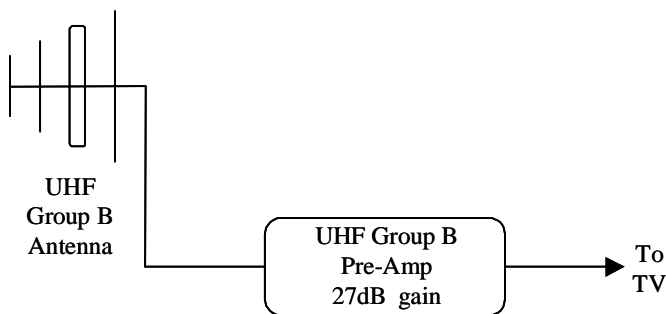
If this is the set up - your transmissions, no matter what frequency on the higher bands you use, will overload the pre-amp.

You could fit a filter between the pre-amp and the antenna but this has its own problems. The UHF antenna although tuned to the UHF band it still will receive significant levels of RF to overload the pre-amp. Even at UHF some domestic antennas are very poor and do not achieve the claimed gain. This could be a reason for an amp been fitted. Could they do with a new antenna? A good one will set them back around £20.00. A possible solution is shown below.



Here we have placed a highpass filter between the antenna and the pre-amp, it has a sharp cut off below 470MHz and offers very good rejection from 1.8MHz to 330 MHz. It will also have an insertion loss of up to 1.5dB. This will reduce the signal to noise ratio of their TV picture. They were already using a pre-amp, which suggests that the field strength was weak in the first instance. You do not want to make this worse. This filter may stop the breakthrough but could cost your neighbour picture quality. This is unacceptable. Fringe Electronics produce a very good filter it has a 1dB insertion loss and offers 55dB of rejection to six meters. One of these has recently been used in the Limerick area; the affected operator could not use

six meters at all. Fitting one of these to his neighbour's antenna completely solved his problem. He can now run full power without any problems. This filter only cost £20 and was money well spent.

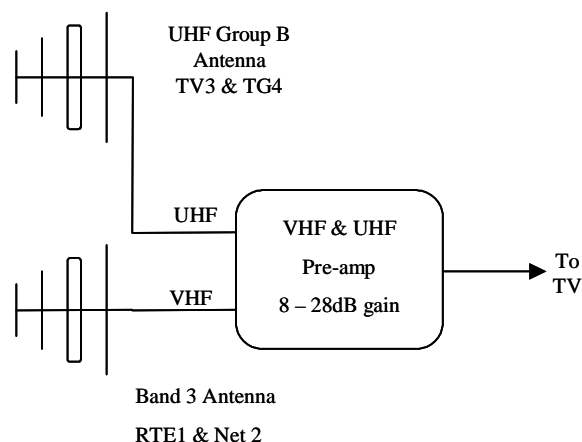


Here we used a specific amplifier designed to operate only over a given band. This **Group B amplifier** covers only 599MHz – 727 MHz. It offers good rejection to all other frequencies. Although not available over the counter, a good dealer will be able to order these for you. He will also let you know what group you need. There is typically ten days delivery on them and they retail at approx £30 including the PSU. This is the preferred solution.

If you are operating on 70cms and are living in a Group A area you may have no choice but to also fit a 70cms rejection filter in series with the Group A pre-amplifier. Let's hope that it's insertion loss does not significantly reduce their picture quality. These filters are available from Poytron in Kinsale. These are also available for 2 Metres and will offer around 20dB of rejection with a 1dB insertion loss.

Because 70cms is so close to the required frequency you may need to notch it out, the highpass filter may not have sufficient rejection close in to 470MHz.

If your neighbour is looking at a main station, which operates on VHF and UHF, Maghera is an example, they may have a different type of amplifier fitted. Maghera was picked, as it was quite unique until recently as RTE 1 was also broadcast on Band 1 (effectively the same frequency as 6 metres). This service is now closed down but you may find big Band 1 antennas still in use receiving Band 3 signals. Watch out for this one!! They will need to change antennas.



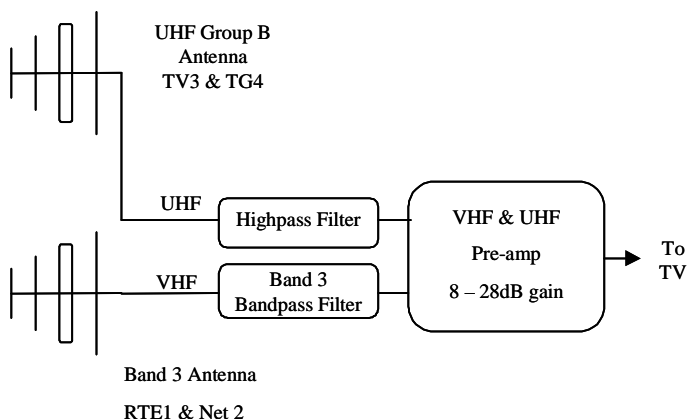
Here the two antennas are fed to a common amplifier. It has two inputs one for VHF and the other for UHF. There are now two potential paths for the breakthrough to occur.

Again isolate which one is causing the problem. It is quite

likely that if 6m or 2m are causing a problem, the VHF side is the problem.

You have to stop all signals except the required ones getting to the amplifier or the TV if no amplifier is fitted. Remember your TV has a tuner, which will be wideband as well. The only difference is that if no pre-amp is fitted then this can be done at the TV set. You will need to fit a Band 3 band pass filter. This will only allow the Band 3 signals to pass through. It has a 1dB insertion loss and offers at least 20dB out of band rejection. The best one that I have used is again from Polytron and is their BPF 3. It retails at around £20. If the problem is on the UHF side the fitting the highpass filter and or notch filter will solve most problems.

Illustrated below is the worst-case scenario with filters fitted in both lines. It must also be stated that if the pre-amp already fitted has a plastic case it would be worth changing it for one which has a metal case. The plastic case will allow RF to enter the amplifier through the case, again saturating the amplifier with RF. The unit housed in a metal case will not let this happen. It would be an awful shame to spend money on filters and not realise that the problem was due to the plastic case of the pre-amp as well.



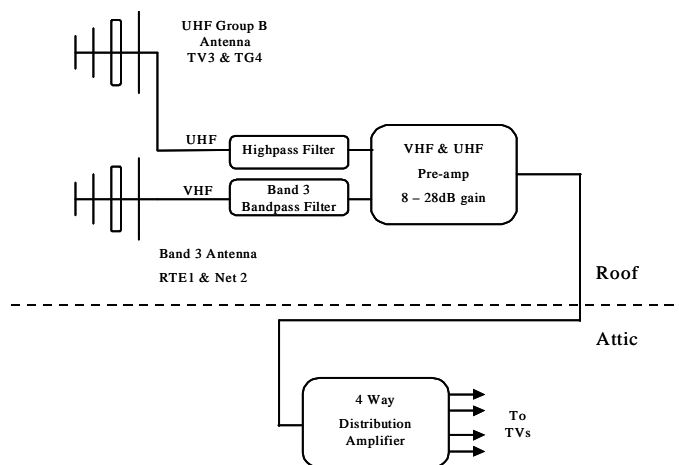
The BPF 3 will require weatherproofing, as it is not an outdoor unit, Polytron again provide suitable outdoor cases. There maybe other units on the market but please beware of their claimed specification. It's always better to spend a little extra for equipment of known pedigree.

That just about covers the masthead pre-amplifier problem. Please bear in mind that they may well have no visible amplifier fitted. There maybe a distribution amplifier fitted in the attic. Again treat this in the same manner. The objective is to stop your transmissions from getting into the amplifier. In this case they may have two coaxial cables running into the attic from the antennas been combined in the amplifier. They may also have a duplexer fitted outside. This may again be of the Plastic variety, metal case ones are available.

Seen below is a typical installation once you have taken all the necessary precautions all should be well.

The whole approach to rectifying breakthrough is simply a matter of elimination. Find out how it is happening and use the appropriate measures, there's no point in guessing what the problem is this will only lead you astray.

The best piece of advice that I can give you is check your own



TV first for problems. If you are suffering, then the chances are, so are your neighbours. What better house to experiment on that your own, solve your own problems first. This will give you the confidence to deal with your neighbours. It also puts you at an advantage, you are now in a position to tell them that you have don't have a problem and invite them in to have a look. You now have some chance of persuading them to possibly pay for any new equipment that they may need.

Explain that the equipment originally fitted may not simply be of the best quality – be careful here it's tricky ground – don't shoot yourself in the foot.

One thing to bear in mind is that it is of course possible that there is an item of faulty equipment connected in your neighbour's house. Be careful, approach any problem with open eyes, never make assumptions and suspect everything.

Polytron can be contacted on 021 4774706.

Thanks must also be given to Urlan TV in Newmarket on Fergus for their invaluable help.

Oliver Gleeson is very knowledgeable and is keen to help.

Filters are also available from the main Amateur radio dealers in the country.

I hope that this has provided some help in understanding how to deal with the problem. If anybody has encountered problems and solved them I would like to hear from you, as I am building up a database for the Society.

Any one with a problem should feel free to contact me

Paul EI6FE



Paul EI3ENB receiving the 2000 VHF Restricted Field Day trophy from IRTS president Dave EI4BZ on behalf of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group.

What are they on about now?

A look at the workings of the IRTS committee
with John Corless EI7IQ

Licensing Matters.

By the time you read this, it is likely that the September meeting of the Committee will have taken place and perhaps the current uncertainty over licensing issues will be a bit clearer by then, but I personally doubt it!

The summer has proven to be an unfruitful one from the point of view of advancing our case with the ODTR. No tangible progress to report, I am sad to say. However it is clearly our task to stick with it, and this we will certainly do.

The non compliance with CEPT on the 5wpm Morse is an immediate issue. Many people feel that the current 12 wpm Code proficiency test should be retained, however that is a separate issue, and the reality is, that with the CEPT guidelines, 5wpm is the speed elsewhere in Europe and so it should be here.

We are now in the ridiculous situation where a visitor to the country with full HF privileges gained in his/her own country with a 5wpm test, can not operate on HF here.

Even if the visitor is from Northern Ireland, (hands across the border and all that!) or any other EU country.

The ODTR position is that the Wireless Telegraphy Act, prevents change of the speed, a claim hotly disputed by the IRTS.

In any event I have no update on any licensing matter, other than the fact that applicants for upgrades are still contacting me to seek the Society's assistance in gaining what up to recently was a routine, process.

Rallies

There is an alarming drop in the number of Rallies taking place and this is something that the Committee will be looking at over the winter season.

Only a couple of years ago a Rally Co Ordinator was appointed to ensure that there was a practical space between Rallies on the Calendar, as

traders were complaining that there were a number of Rallies really close to each other, and that it would be better if they were spaced out.

The current spacing is ott!

Rallies are an important element of the social as well as the commercial aspects of the hobby and should be protected and developed. The Donegal and Galway Rallies have disappeared as well as a number in Dublin, Monaghan and Dundalk. These rallies are greatly missed. I feel that most of the work organising these events was left to a few dedicated individuals and that many others failed to give assistance with all of the arrangements. Perhaps some new people in these clubs/areas would get involved and try and revive some of these events, their demise is a great loss to the hobby.

VHF Square Table!

VHF Manager Joe Fadden has taken to publishing a VHF Squares table of recent. This is a revival of a practise that John Desmond EI7GL a previous VHF Manager (who incidentally has a great website), carried on in the past. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joe for publishing my one effort on Four Metres, (thanks, Joe) however I should point out to Joe, that it is a SquareS table, and not a square table!

But then when, like so many others, I didn't send him my updated total, I can't really have a go at him, can I? So if you have worked any squares on VHF, it might be a good idea to submit the detailed list to Joe, to avoid the embarrassment that I have had to suffer at his hands!!!

WEIC

The Worked EI Counties Award is well publicised within the hobby in Ireland. There was a test case recently when an amateur applied for the award but did not send in QSL cards to confirm the contacts. This claim was deliberated upon, by the

committee, and a ruling was made that cards would have to be produced. So the application was put on hold. As it turned out, the applicant had no problem with the decision, and despatched the cards to prove the contacts, and received the award. I mention this because approximately an hour before I started to write this article, I decided to take a look through my own cards, with a view to claiming the award. I was horrified to find that I had cards for nine counties only! There would not be much point in approaching the WEIC Awards Manager with nine cards and an "I'll see you again" for the remainder!

WEIC would appear to be a relatively simple award to operate. You work the bands and work the counties. A QSL bureau operates to distribute the cards around the country. It could not be simpler. Or so it would seem!

A friend of mine played on one of the many Mayo teams that should have won an All Ireland senior football title, but didn't. One day after another disappointment at Croke Park, I asked him what happened, where did it go wrong. His reply was simple and it applies to the WEIC award: "If you don't have the ball you can't score."

If you don't have the cards you can't claim the award. While this is not a personal appeal for cards from the remaining counties, some of them, well represented in every respect within the hobby in this country, it remains a good example of what happens.

You may have no interest in the award yourself, but think of it from the other side of the QSO.

It could be your card, that is holding up someone from claiming their award.

73s

JC August 28 2001.

The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network
(Ireland's Award winning club)
are pleased to announce
their first ever

Rally in the **Belmont Hotel** **Knock** (on the N17)

on
Sunday March 3rd 2002

to coincide with
the IRTS AGM and Dinner Dance.

The Dinner Dance will be held on the
Saturday night and the rally and AGM will
be held on the Sunday.

Further details in the next issue

Reading the Mail By Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #14 of "Reading the Mail" – my account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 6 May to 1 July 2001.

During the time hefty parcels from ARI (6 kilos), RSGB (6 kilos), ARRL (3 kilos), CRC and SRAL (2 kilos), and JARL (3 kilos), kept up the numbers of cards. In addition smaller packets came from LABRE, PZK, RAC, SARL, Monaco, Papua, Russia and Ukraine.

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of reporting: A52UD, C56/G800, E44DX, LU2FFD 50MHz, NN6NN, V5/ZS6YG, VP6BR/mm, XX9TKW, ZA/OH6XY, ZA2A, ZR5ADQ, ZS0E, 3DA0NX, 3XY2D, 8M2000 and 8N2000. Also very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting

activity with Eastern Europe, the USA, Canada and South Africa on 50MHz.

For island chasers the following were noticed: AH6HY, AH0P, CE0Y/JA7KXD, CE0Z/OH3JF, AC8W/C6A, FH/G3SXW, FW/G3SXW, JL1KFR/JD1, JN1HOW/JD1, JH0ALB, KH0/JA5AUC, OX/N6ZZ, T88DX, T88JJ, T88KM, V63KU, V73GT, V8JA, VQ9GB, YM0KA 50MHz, ZD9ZM, 5Z4WI and 9M2TO/P.

Congratulations to all concerned. There will be more news from the Incoming QSL Bureau in the next edition of the IRTS Newsletter.

For now, all best wishes and good DX in 2001.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.

IARU **HF Championship**

One of the most popular 24 hour contests in the calendar is the IARU HF Championship.

This was held on July 14/15th and a feature of this event is that as well as ITU zones, stations representing national societies also count as multipliers.

The Dalkey Island Group represented the IRTS and operated a special callsign EI0R for the event.

They operated from Enniskerry and made a total of 3,700 QSO's over the 24 hours.

The station was set up field day style and included mono-band Yagis for 10, 15 and 20 metres with dipoles for the LF bands.

The operators were Paul EI2CA, Keith EI4FBB, Paul EI5DI, Danny EI5HD, Tony EI6EW, Sean EI7CD, Aidan EI8CE and Declan EI9HQ.

Contest Calendar

September

1st	0000-2359
1/2nd	0000-2400
1/2nd	1500-1500
8/9th	0000-2400
15/16th	1200-1200
22/23rd	1200-1200
29/30th	0000-2400

October

6/7th	0800-0800
6th	1500-1859
13/14th	0800-0800
13th	150-1859
20/21st	1500-1459
21st	0700-1900
27/28th	000-2400

November

3/4th	1200-1200
9/11th	2300-2300
10/11th	0000-2359
10/11	1200-1200
17/18th	1200-1200
17/18th	1800-0800
17/18th	2100-0100
17/18th	1800-0700
24/25th	0000-2400
30/2nd	2200-1600

<http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

CCCC PSK31 Contest	PSK
All Asian DX Contest	SSB
IARU Region 1 Field Day	SSB
Worked All Europe DX Contest	SSB
Scandinavian Activity Contest	CW
Scandinavian Activity Contest	SSB
CQ/RJ World Wide RTTY DX Contest	RTTY

Oceania DX Contest	SSB
EU Autumn Sprint	SSB
Oceania DX Contest	CW
EU Autumn Sprint	CW
Worked All Germany	CW/SSB
RSGB 21/28MHz	CW
CQWW DX Contest	SSB

Ukrainian DX Contest	CW/SSB
JA International DX	SSB
WAE RTTY	RTTY
OK/OM DX Contest	SSB
LZ DX Contest	CW
IARU 160m Contest	CW
RSGB 1.8MHz	CW
All Austrian DX	CW
CQWW DX	CW
ARRL 160m Contest	CW

There's a light in the tower

By Sean Donelan EI4GK

The lighthouse in Eochail on Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands, was built in 1818. It was built on the highest point on the island 416 feet above sea level and alongside the signal tower built in 1805. Its light was visible for many miles and from all directions.

Unfortunately, in the years after it was commissioned, it transpired that all was not well with the Eochail Tower, as it became known. Because of its height, the Tower was regularly rendered useless by the fogs and mists that are so prevalent on our western seaboard.

More importantly, its location in the centre of the island and a mile or more from the shore, meant that ships were from time to time lured into dangerous waters, believing the lighthouse to be on, or close to, the coast.

In 1857 the lighthouse was decommissioned and replaced by a number of other lights more appropriately located. The building fell into disrepair and was not used again for 140 years. With the introduction of high-speed ferries and the subsequent increase in the number of visitors to the Aran Islands, a local businessman decided that the tower, its neighbouring buildings and an adjacent Iron Age fort could be developed into a tourist attraction. The tower was renovated, a number of other historical and lifestyle artefacts were added and the site opened as Dun Arainn in 1996.

When Declan EI9HQ and myself EI4GK operated from Inishmore in the 1993 and 1994 IOTA Contests, we had identified the Eochail Tower as the best contest site on the island. Unfortunately, its remote location and its advanced state of dilapidation meant that we could not realistically expect to mount an operation from there. However a couple of years later, with the tower renovated, all sorts of possibilities opened up.

We approached the site owner for permission to operate from the vicinity of the tower in the 1999 IOTA Contest. The request was granted on condition that we did not interfere with the large number of tourists from all over the world who visited the site daily. So we pitched our tents in an inconspicuous part of the site, erected our antennas before or after the daily tourist invasion and tried not to rock too many boats.

We were granted one very important concession! We were allowed to erect our tribander on the top of the tower.

The contest results that year were very encouraging – enough to attract us back in the year 2000 when we improved our position even more.

With the 2001 IOTA Contest on the horizon, we were thunderstruck to see Dun Arainn appear in the 'For Sale' columns of the property supplements. A telephone call to the owner a few weeks later, elicited two important pieces of information. Firstly, that the site had not yet been sold and secondly, that it had not opened to visitors in 2001. "Could we use it for the IOTA Contest?" "Certainly, if it is not sold in the meantime"

So, for the third consecutive year, Declan EI9HQ, Joe EI7GY and myself EI4GK climbed that nearly vertical hill to prepare for the contest. This year we had two new team members Mark EI7FNB and Kohei EI8JC/JR0BAQ and this year we were going to operate from the tower itself.

This year, there was going to be no wet grass, no saturated tents, and no curious tourists.

This year, we were going to operate from the comfort of a 200 year old lighthouse situated on the highest point on the island and with a clear take-off in every direction.

The full story of the operation has yet to be told. Suffice to say at this stage that with the help of our secret weapon we more than doubled our score over last year and are hopeful of an improved position on the final leader board.

What was the secret weapon?

The secret weapon was Kowhai – a Japanese amateur working in Dublin who was paying his first visit to the Aran Islands.

A very competent CW operator, Kohei 'pounded the key' conscientiously and fruitfully until the final two hours of the Contest.

At that stage, a number of Japanese stations appeared on the bands and we began to work them on SSB.

Somebody said "Put Kohei in" – and that's just what we did!

For the next two hours Kohei worked the JAs in their own language.

When the Packet Cluster in Japan listed "EJ4GK/p - Japanese operator", hundreds of Japanese stations that had no interest in participating in the contest came on the air to work him.

Because of the scoring system used in the IOTA contest, those QSOs were extremely valuable and contributed significantly to our final score. Well done, Kohei.

Sorry, I forgot to explain about the light in the tower. The site owner had had the foresight to equip the site with mains power and this had been a major benefit to us in our operations there over three years. The mains power had not been extended into the tower itself and since we needed light there, one of our first tasks this year was to equip the tower with light – all of three 100w bulbs! These, together with a couple of desk lamps were enough to keep us working comfortably.

Little did we realise the impact that a light in the Eochail Tower would have on the local community.

Even with such low power, the light was visible for a considerable distance.

Quite a few people unconnected with our operation commented very favourably on its impact; it was featured in a news programme on Radio na Gaeltachta; and it became a local talking point.

Well, what would you expect if it took 140 years to switch on a light?



World. Radiosport. Team. Championships 2002 in Finland

The next World Radiosport Team Championship, the Olympics of Amateur Radio, will be taking place in Finland in the year 2002.

What is the WRTC?

The WRTC is a competition among two-person teams of some of the top Amateur Radio contest operators in the world. By bringing these competitors together in one geographic area and providing equal operating conditions (antennas, power, etc), the variables normally associated with radio contesting are minimized, and the individual team's operating skills are emphasized.

WRTC 2002--A Joint Effort

Discussions as to which country would host WRTC 2002 began during the highly successful WRTC 2000 in Slovenia. Well known for its long history and high level of participation in contesting, Finland was one of the obvious choices. A common comment heard during the planning discussions in Slovenia was "The Finns must do it!"

We are now pleased to announce that WRTC 2002 will be jointly organized by Contest Club Finland (CCF) and the Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL).

The Teams

The team selection process is about to begin. Participants from all continents will be selected based primarily on their track records from past contests.

Some 45 to 50 teams will be chosen through a variety of methods. These include open applications as well as "Encouragement Letters" sent out directly by the committee.

Leading contest clubs and the IARU societies are encouraged to assist in identifying prospective participants.

We will be keeping the contest community informed on the progress of this selection process on a regular basis.

The Contest

The on-the-air portion of the competition will be held within the 2002 IARU HF Championship.

In keeping with the original WRTC concept, every effort will be made to provide the teams with operating conditions that are as equal as possible. Our plan is to set up 45 to 50 station sites in locations around the Helsinki area; each equipped with identical antenna systems.

The Finns are considered forerunners in information and telecommunications technology. We are proud to say that during the WRTC 2002, some of these exciting new technologies will be creatively utilized!

The Social Aspects

While the competition itself is certainly the focal point of WRTC 2002, the social aspects of this event will also receive special attention.

Once they've arrived in Finland, the competitors and the other guests will eventually be transported to the SRAL Summer Camp.

Summer Camp is one of Finnish Amateur Radio's oldest traditions. It's essentially a combination of a hamfest and Field Day, and just about every ham-related activity is demonstrated.

There's something exciting in the air during these camps--something that one has to experience first hand to fully appreciate!

A variety of other activities--such as excursions, parties and more--are also planned.

The WRTC 2002 Management Team

Jouko Häyrynen, OH1RX--Organizing Committee Chairman

Jari Jussila, OH2BU--Events Chairman and Domestic Publicity

Martti Laine, OH2BH--Competition Co-Chairman

Pasi Luoma-aho, OH2IW--Competition Co-Chairman

Jukka Kulha, OH2MA--Site Design and Management

Veijo Kontas, OH6KN--Wireless and Web technology

Merja Veisterä--Financial Controller and Treasurer

Ari Korhonen, OH1EH--Competitor Correspondence and International Publicity

Timo Klimoff, OH1NOA--Competitor Correspondence and Webmaster

Risto Lund, OH3UU--Logging and Scoring Management

WRTC 2002--Preliminary Schedule

Tuesday, July 9th:

Competitors arrive in Finland. There will be an informal get together and registration.

Wednesday, July 10th:

Competitors and guests will be transported to the SRAL Summer Camp and the official opening ceremony will be

held.

Thursday, July 11th:

The first official contest meeting, the pileup competition and an evening party are scheduled.

Friday, July 12th:

The second contest meeting will be held. Competitors will then be transported to the contest station sites.

Saturday, July 13th:

WRTC 2002 on-the-air competition begins at 1200Z.

Sunday, July 14th:

WRTC 2002 competition ends at 1200Z.

Late night "after the contest" events will be held in Helsinki.

Monday, July, 15th:

There will be a tour of Helsinki, the awards ceremony and the closing ceremony.

Tuesday, July, 16th:

Departure.

WRTC 2002 Publicity

We'll be keeping the contest community informed on the progress of WRTC 2002 through various means.

One of the best places to find the latest information is the WRTC 2002 Web site: www.wrtc2002.org.

Amateur Radio in Finland

The Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL) currently has 5000 members. This number represents more than 95 percent of all Finnish amateur licensees--the highest percentage member-to-licensee ratio in all of Europe.

SRAL has retained its membership while many other countries have experienced declining numbers. To this end, the League employs some highly advanced initiatives--

SRAL is quite possibly the only national Amateur Radio society that recruits new members through television commercials. The organization is professionally run and the Finnish Ministry of Education supports its efforts. Contesting and DXing are two of the most popular Amateur Radio pursuits in Finland.

Countrywide amateur activities are also organized by the Contest Club Finland (CCF) and the OH DX Foundation (OHDXF).

Located at 62 degrees North, Finland is considered by some the "KL7 of Europe"--as it is within the auroral zone

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at roughly the same latitude as Anchorage, Alaska. Finnish hams seem to believe that by hoisting their antennas higher and adding more elements they can close the "propagation gap" that exists between them and the rest of Europe. In Finland, rotatable 140-foot towers are fairly common. With antennas positioned at lesser heights it would be very difficult to be competitive under typical conditions.

When the propagation is favorable, however, OHs are right in the thick of things--fighting for victory. Some of these individuals are not content with leaving their fate to the whims of the local propagation though--they head south and set up operations in contesting "hot spots" in equatorial regions.

Those who visit Finland may be surprised to see that the reach of the internationally renowned OH2AQ DX Summit--the global network of Web-based DX spotting--has been extended into the horizon of new innovation.

The DX Summit is carried by the Finnish nationwide teletext TV network.

Switch on a TV set anywhere in Finland--in any household--and you'll enjoy instant access to the latest information from the site on DXing and Amateur Radio contesting.

Many Finnish hams are exposed to state-of-the-art technology in their employment as well--as they work for companies that are front-runners in high-tech sectors.

Some of these companies will be providing support for WRTC-2002--Elektrobit, Nokia and Vaisala for example.

(Nokia, incidentally, currently employs more than 10 percent of the ham population of Finland.)

But ultimately, the greatest factor that has contributed to the success of Amateur Radio in Finland is the unity of its ham population.

While OH DXers and contesters compete head-to-head in many events, the following day they are back around the same table, sharing what they've learned and planning their next endeavours.

As the hosts for WRTC-2002, we invite both the competitors and others to come to Finland and experience firsthand the beauty of our country, the depth of our culture and the tremendous camaraderie that has become the hallmark of the WRTC events.

Open house at Clogherhead.

Thos EI2JD, who was a winner in this year's 2metres counties contest, held an open house on Tuesday 7th August at his QTH at Clogherhead by the sea.

Twenty two hams under one roof took a bit of organising.

The clubs represented were Skerries ARC, Dundalk ARC and South Dublin ARC.

A great time was had by all and at least half of the visitors stayed over night. There were hundreds of QSO's made and the log book looks impressive, with the late night operators getting the cream of the QSO's.



It was surprising to see so many people interested in a get together like this on a Tuesday after bank holiday Monday.

It was a great shake hands event. A group photograph was taken. So watch out for that. The crack was ninety. It was a beautiful summers night and there was also a 1980's music quiz for those who wanted to rock the night away.

We hope that Thos's shack is back to normal and that his SWR is not to high?

There was also an ATV show on that night.

Mike EI5GG and his trusted friend Dermot sent and received ATV pictures to EI3DM and EI3CZ in Dublin with P5 both ways.

Pictures of the event are available on the South Dublin Radio Club Web Site at www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/

Tom. EI7HT.

Amateurs complete first 24GHz EME QSO

Here's another one for the Amateur Radio record books. On Saturday, August 18th, hams in Texas and Manitoba completed the first 24GHz Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) QSO.

The contact followed by several months the first documented echoes from the moon on 24 GHz.

Noted microwave enthusiast Al Ward, W5LUA, of Allen, Texas (EM13), says his QSO with Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA, in Winnipeg, Manitoba (EN19), was a result of several years of effort in trying to optimize antenna gain and receiver sensitivity, and to obtain adequate power to make the roughly half-million mile path to the moon and back.

"Signals were weak but easily copied at both ends," Ward said.

The August 18 QSO took place at 1417 UTC on 24,192 MHz.

Malowanchuk said the two exchanged "M" reports.

After many failed attempts, Ward succeeded last March in hearing 24 GHz EME echoes and documenting them for the first time.

Such accomplishments on 24GHz are particularly significant because water-vapour absorption of signals peaks at around that frequency.

VE4MA used a 2.8-meter offset-fed dish and a travelling wave tube amplifier producing 70 W.

W5LUA has a 3-meter prime focus dish and a TWT amp producing 80 W.

A fixture in the VHF-UHF and microwave standings, Ward was the recipient of the 2000 ARRL Microwave Development Award.

Additional details are on the North Texas Microwave Society Web site, <<http://www.ntms.org>>.

Kinsale Lighthouse

A group from the Wicklow Wireless Society operated at the Old Head of Kinsale lighthouse for the international lighthouse weekend on the 18/19th August 2001.

The ARLHS lighthouse number is 055, ARLHS membership number is number 13.

The call was EI9KLH and three stations were set up.

QSL is direct or via buro to Declan EI9HQ.

Thinking Day On The Air

TDOTA (Thinking Day on the Air) is the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts equivalent of JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) for Boy Scouts, and its aim is to encourage members to make Guiding friendships with members in other units and introduce them to amateur radio.

TDOTA has been running for a number of years on the nearest weekend to February 22nd, known to Guides as Thinking Day, when numerous international activities are arranged. This has led to some confusion regarding the actual date of TDOTA each year, especially when the 22nd is mid-week. Therefore, it has been decided that from 2002 TDOTA will take place on the 3rd full weekend in February each year, similar to the Scouts having JOTA on the 3rd full weekend in October.

WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) will be promoting this event worldwide through the various national Guiding Associations. Currently TDOTA is a much lower key event than JOTA, but the organisers aim to change all that. Many license holders first started in amateur radio through their involvement in Scout and Guide special event stations.

TDOTA 2002 will be 16th and 17th February.

Liz Jones, M0ACL, the International TDOTA Co-ordinator is anxious to hear from any amateur who would be interested in running a station for the event. Sounds like a great activity for a club! Liz can be contacted by e-mail on: tdota2002@yahoo.co.uk

More Trouble For AO40

The primary 2.4 GHz (S-Band) transmitter aboard the OSCAR-40 satellite has stopped working.

AMSAT ground controllers don't know what happened or why, as yet another glitch afflicts the problem-plagued amateur satellite.

A backup transmitter on the band is still working.

FCC Seeks Comments on Possible 60 Meter Ham Band

The ARRL says the Federal Communications Commission (the US equivalent of our ODTR, the licensing body) is seeking comments on a proposal to create a new US-only amateur band at 5 MHz. The ARRL-initiated proposal

calls for giving amateurs a secondary allocation, for domestic use only, between 5250 and 5400 kHz, at an approximate wavelength of 60 meters. If approved this would be the first-ever US amateur band on which international communications were prohibited.

Some observers believe that this request for a 5MHz band will not sit well with many tropical countries and their administrations who have local need for such frequencies to provide international communications for health, education, local government and other utility users. The use of this band by high-powered US stations may cause problems for many users within the tropics, including SE Asia, South America and Africa.

Part of US 13cm Amateur Band to Go?

Staying with US matters, the FCC has included a portion of the 13-centimetre amateur band -- 2390-2400 MHz -- among a group of frequencies it is considering reallocating for advanced wireless services. This band segment is currently a primary amateur allocation. The ARRL band plan for this section includes one ATV channel plus frequencies for high-speed packet and other digital transmissions. Some amateurs are discussing using the ATV channel on this band as one side of a repeater input/output for digital ATV.

And a full scale battle has commenced between a commercial concern AeroAstro and the ARRL over competing proposals for 2300 to 2305 MHz. ARRL has petitioned to elevate the Amateur Service from secondary to primary status on the band and requested that no commercial operations be introduced. AeroAstro seeks co-primary status with the Amateur Service to accommodate a Miscellaneous Wireless Communication Service satellite-based position-monitoring system.

"Logbook of the world" Software Design Underway

Fast on the heels of approval of the "Logbook of the World" by the ARRL Board of Directors, software design to support the electronic contact-verification program is moving full speed ahead. ARRL Membership Services Manager and LOTW Project Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, said the ARRL hopes to make LOTW software

modules available soon to vendors for incorporation into their logging programs.

"We have been in touch with 15 or so developers of popular logging software," Mills said. "We're also looking at providing a basic, do-it-yourself program to get contact data to ARRL."

The logging software modules are being developed as part of the Trusted QSL open-source project headed by Darryl Wagoner, WA1GON.

At the heart of the Logbook of the World concept is a huge repository of log data provided by operators--from individual DXers and contesters to major DXpeditions--and maintained by ARRL. Mills says the system will benefit big and little guns alike by providing quick QSO credit for awards offered by ARRL, and, it's hoped, for awards offered by other organizations as well.

Once it becomes available--which could be as early as the middle of next year--Logbook of the World will accept authenticated data directly from computerized logs via the Internet. "This is an e-mail based system that uses easy-to-obtain digital signatures for authentication," Mills said.

"Once you get your digital certificate, a few keystrokes will do the trick."

Mills said the program envisions user access to the LOTW "confirmed database" so an operator can see what "matches" turn up--such as confirmation of new DXCC entities, states or grid squares. "We'll also publish a list of logs that have been submitted," he said, adding that operators may access the LOTW database once they've uploaded their own log data.

Heading up software development is ARRL Electronic Publications Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, along with Web Applications Developer Mark Simcik, WA1VVB.

Software specifications already have been established. In addition to Wagoner, those assisting the project include Dick Green, WC1M, Ted Demopoulos, KR1G, and ARRL staff member and well-known contester and DXer Dave Patton, NT1N.

Mills said that he hopes to be able to announce a specific inauguration date for Logbook of the World within a few months.

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Internet Linking Talk For Your Club

Ian Able, G3ZHI has given a talk to a number of clubs in the UK and overseas on internet linking. Ian has promoted this particular development over the past couple of years. It would appear to be a handy way of having a guest speaker at your club without the speaker having to travel. Ian is willing to set up similar talks for Irish clubs, if requested, and can be contacted on e-mail on g3zhi@totalise.co.uk or by telephone 00 44 1709 799911 Mobile 00 44 7748 928916 and his website is www.qsl.net/g3zhi

Amateur Radio Helps Save Four Lives

Just four weeks after exercising their emergency communications skills during ARRL Field Day, members of the Northern Southeast Amateur Radio Emergency Services and Juneau Amateur Radio Club in Alaska put those skills to use to help to save a fellow amateur and several companions.

On July 22, Mark Griffith, KL0MO, was rafting down the Herbert Glacier River with three friends when their raft was severely damaged. The group was stranded on a small island in the middle of the raging river, swollen by heavy rainfall. Early that evening, Griffith used the KL7PF repeater phone patch to alert search-and-rescue personnel.

Meanwhile, Bob Dewey, WL7QC, overheard Griffith's transmission and set out for the scene, to meet with the rescue personnel. He was able to contact Griffith on simplex, providing direct contact with rescue personnel.

The Juneau Mountain Rescue team had to cut it's way through dense undergrowth to get to the stranded rafters.

The weather prevented the use of a helicopter, and the river was too fast, and had too much debris, to use a rescue boat.

The four huddled for the night beneath the remains of their raft.

Although Griffith's battery was depleted, it retained enough power to receive Dewey's communications.

A member of the SEADOGS search-and-rescue dog team located the rafters at around 1 AM, and the US Coast Guard airlifted them off the island around 7 AM.

The four rafters suffered only mild hypothermia.

South Dublin Radio Club



Eamon, Peter, Nicholas, Andy, Pat, Tom and Brendan

A number of new members have joined South Dublin Radio Club in recent months. They include Eamon O'Brien along with father & son Eddie and Kevin Cunningham.

SDR has also had a visit recently from Dubliner Andy Ronan EI8IM, who now lives in Chicago and has the call sign N9TGR. Andy is a keen contest, and has plans to join one of the groups participating in this year's IOTA Contest. Pat Molloy EI5IF, an old friend of Andy's accompanied him on his visit to SDR.

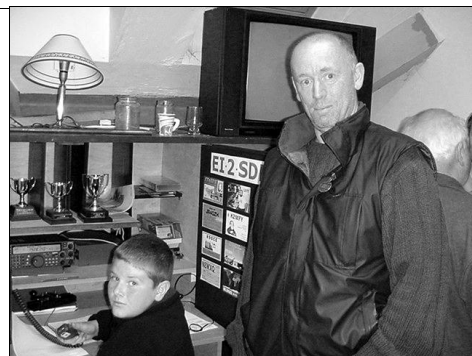
Bangor Rally

Members of South Dublin Radio Club were recently again North of the border to attend the Bangor Rally. SDR's twin club from the North, the Glen-gormely Electronics Amateur Radio Society - GEARS - had a stand at the Rally selling secondhand equipment. The proceeds of sale of the GEARS stand will be going towards the purchase of a caravan, to enable the club to operate portable during contests and other events.

The SDR visitors, who were Tom EI7HT, Tony EI7FKB, Nicholas EI5FLB and Daniel SWL, were invited to attend the GEARS Barbeque, which was held after the rally in the People's Park, Bangor. Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

In keeping with tradition, the SDR members were on the air for the entire journey North and the journey home again, keeping all the listeners up to date with their activities on the day.

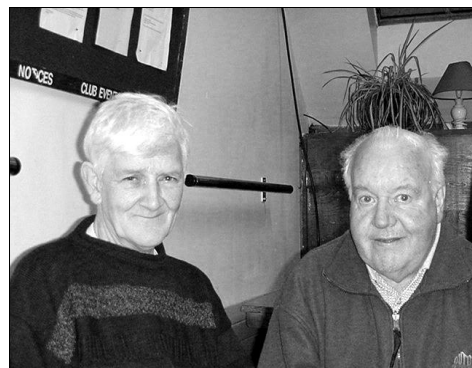
The SDR Club meets every Tuesday night at the Ballyroan Community Centre in Rathfarnham
Tommy Griffin EI9BTB 01-4943217
Www.qsl.net/EI2SDR/



Father and son
Eddie and Kevin Cunningham



Visitor from Chicago
Andy Ronan EI8IM/N9TGR



New member Eamon O'Brien with SDR treasurer and IRTS Committee Member and Assistant Treasurer Brendan de hOra EI3GV

A Blast from the Past - Part 2

With Sean EI4GK

In the December 2000 issue of Echo Ireland, I wrote of my experience in working Len KH0AC on the Mariana Islands in 1998. During that QSO Len had spoken of his visit to Ireland in 1961 and of his friendship with Joe EI8P. I had been unable to obtain any information about EI8P until a fortuitous and completely accidental meeting with Trudy Mills some weeks following the QSO. Trudy turned out to be a daughter of the late Joe Mills, EI8P.

I went on to explain that my letter to Len KH0AC recounting my meeting with Trudy had remained unanswered.

The story continues:

Less than three weeks after the despatch of the December 2000 issue of Echo Ireland, I received an e-mail from Bill Doud EI6IV. Bill is based in Co. Galway but is lucky enough to spend the winter months in Long Beach, CA! He had just had a QSO with Len, KH0AC and had taken the opportunity to tell him of my piece in Echo Ireland. Bill gave me Len's e-mail address and suggested that I get in touch with him.

No sooner said than done! I e-mailed Len and so began a lengthy correspondence over the next few weeks. I also sent him a copy of the December 2000 issue of Echo Ireland.

Len was a little unhappy about some of the things I wrote in the article.

He felt that he had been depicted as some sort of ogre chastising hams for their operating standards. Obviously, his presence on the bands generates pile-ups and he suffers from the undisciplined behaviour of, mainly European, operators. Rather than ignore it, he finds that it is better to address behav-

iour of this nature. He definitely believes that there is no need to spell 'Dublin' on the air, because everybody knows where it is! And then there was the question of the unanswered letter. As an operator in a DX location, Len explained that his QSOs generate 500 QSL cards monthly. Even though he has a QSL Manager in Washington State, many of the cards arrive at his home QTH in the Mariana Islands. If he opens the envelopes containing these cards, he explained, he has to pay the postage to his QSL Manager. If he re-directs them unopened, the postage is free. Having never seen my letter, he can only assume that it suffered the re-direction treatment.

Len wrote of the time he had operated a station in the Vatican, how he had his first QSO with Joe, EI8P from there, and how their friendship had grown. It was following a query from Joe that Len realised that no HV QSLs were being despatched and that led in turn to Len and a colleague answering the thousands of cards that had accumulated in the one station then active in Vatican City. But that is a story to be told in a future issue of Echo Ireland.

Len was very pleased to hear of my meeting with Trudy Mills, daughter of Joe EI8P. It brought back memories of the time he spent in Dublin in the 60s - and of the Mills family in Monkstown. He asked some questions about Joe's family whom he had not heard from in over thirty years. That left me in a quandary. Although I had met Trudy Mills casually, I had no address or telephone number for her. How then could I make contact with her again so that I could answer Len's queries?

She no longer worked in the Copy Shop, although they did remember her there. She was not listed in the telephone directory and in a week or so the trail went cold. Len remembered part of the Mills family address from the 60s but that was enough to enable me identify the house. My next stop was the Voters' Register. Yes, the house was listed, but the occupants were not named Mills. Maybe the new occupants are in the Telephone Directory. Yes they are! So I made a telephone call and asked about the Mills family. "Yes", I was told, "they did live here but sold the house to us in the early 90s" "Sorry, we don't know where they live now, but I think that one of the girls lives in the Dun Laoghaire area". That was the breakthrough that I needed. There are not too many "Mills" listed in the Dun Laoghaire area and my first call hit the jackpot. I spoke to Jackie Mills one of Joe's daughters who, of course, remembered Father Len. She gave me the information I needed and I passed it on.

All this time I was communicating with Len KH0AC via email. I really needed to have another on-air QSO with him. The winter storms had taken their toll on my beam, which was working at no more than about 20% efficiency. I tried with the Windom and although I could hear him calling me, his response to my transmissions was "nothing heard". Eventually, as we moved into spring, I had the beam repaired and made an 0800 sked on a Sunday morning - LONG PATH.

We made it! Across 17,000 miles and 40 years, I worked him again on 15 metres and together we honoured Joe, EI8P his long dead friend.

CQWW SSB 2000 Results

Call	Band	Power	Score	QSOs	Zones	Countries
EI8GS	28	H	496,278	1761	34	124
EI8IC	21	H	356,535	1370	28	111
EI7GL	A	L	799,006	1164	77	312
EI4DW	28	L	279,070	1173	23	95
EI4CF	28	L	226,240	767	33	107
EI6FR	21	L	392,657	1451	33	124
Assisted						
EI8IR	A	H	2,977,871	3005	123	410
Multi-Op						
EI9E	A	H	2,502,797	2667	107	410

Outgoing QSL Bureau

All cards for the outgoing bureau should be sent to the Outgoing QSL Manager

Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI
Baurleigh,
Bandon,
Co. Cork.

2 Metre Sporadic E Challenge

With a view to promote the research in the field of propagation by sporadic E, we set up this challenge.

It bears the name "challenge F8SH" in remembering Mr Serge Canivenc, F8SH, former research coordinator for the IARU 1.

The logs collected by this challenge will be transmitted to the new coordinator Mr Jim Bacon, G3YLA and will be used to supply a database for this research.

1. Participants

Any amateur radio station or SWL

2. Starting date and end date of the challenge

The QSOs taken into account for the challenge must have been done between 1 May 2001 00.00 UTC and 30 September 2001 24.00 UTC

3. Classes

1. A. Mono operator
2. B. QRP 10 Watts mono operator
3. C. SWL

4. Bands taken into account

1. 2 m band (144 Mhz)

5. Ways of transmissions taken into account

1. CW
2. SSB
3. RTTY

The way of transmission does not count for the final result. The participating stations can perform the three ways.

6. Challenge callsign and exchange of RST

No competition callsign is necessary. The same is true for the serial number. However, stations will take care to indicate most exactly possible the sent and received RST.

7. Calculation of the points

Number of points = Number of different locators (format xxyyzz) x total number of stations contacted by this way of propagation (independently for the locator)

8. Transmission of the logs

See Transmission of Logs below

9. Particular rules

1. Only one QSO with the same station the same day will be taken into account for the calculation of the points.
2. Only the QSOs of a distance higher than or equals with 500 Kms (distance between the two locators) will be taken into consideration.
3. The QSOs ES established at the time of the various competitions taking place during the period of the challenge are valid.
4. The QSOs established by packet, relays, transponders, satellites are not valid.

10. Classification

1. The classification will be established on the basis of the largest number of points for each class.

11. Penalties

1. QSOs incorrect or incomplete : the QSOs will not be taken into account (see the page on transmission of the logs for the detail) and will count for 0 points
2. Non marked doubled QSOs : the QSOs will not be taken into account (see the page on transmission of the logs for the detail) and will count for 0 points.

12. Disqualifications

1. For the stations having sent falsified or imaginary logs
2. For inobservance of the band planning IARU

13. Disputes

1. Any recourse or dispute can be submitted to the organizers by post or electronic (E-mail)
2. Any recourse or dispute will be examined by the organizers of the competition based on base and in the spirit of this regulation.
3. Organizers commit themselves to solving any dispute within the 7 days following the introduction of recourse. The decision taken will be transmitted to the applicant party and will be the subject of a publication on the site of the challenge.
4. The decisions taken by the organizers are without call.

14. Participation award

1. The participating stations will receive a participation award after the challenge and establishment of the final results.

ceive a participation award after the challenge and establishment of the final results.

2. A special award will be allotted to the participating station having contacted the largest number of different locators (format xxyyzz).
3. A special award will be allotted to the participating station having realised the longest distance between two locators (format xxyyzz).

Transmission of the logs

1. Logs can be sent :

- a. i.e. at the end of the challenge for all the period of the challenge
- b. i.e. for each fortnight (from 1 to 15 and from the 15 to the 30 or 31)

All the logs must arrive at the organizers at the latest for 15 October 2001

The logs sent after each fortnight will enable the participating stations to see their advance in the challenge and the organizers to establish a provisional classification.

2. Formats of the logs

1. Logs can be sent :
 - a. in written form
 - b. under Excel format 97
 - c. under format access 97.

Logs will include following information imperatively :

- a. Coversheet
- b. Logsheets

3. Addresses of transmission of the logs

For the French participants : Christophe Auzzino
E-mail : F8ACF
Résidence les Korrigans BAT 3 N° 9
F-56170 Quiberon (France)

For the participants of the other countries :
Daniel Vandewalle
E-mail : ON1KVE
rue des Déportés 5 B
B-7866 Ollignies (Belgium)

[Http://challengef8sh.iffance.com](http://challengef8sh.iffance.com)

TRIUMPHANT ACTIVATION

By George McHugh GI4SRQ

Now Alex sat in Lisburn Town
Drinking the blood-red wine;
“Now how can we get the Lough Neagh squares?”
He thought for quite some time.

“There’s Juliet Zero Six and Seven,
And Juliet Zero Eight.
Friend Dennis has a cabin boat.
We could investigate!”

So G I Zero T J J
And George, Four S R Q
Put their heads together
And decided what to do.

From Oxford Island to Ballyronan
With Long and Latitude,
They sailed for hours in Dennis’s boat
And found that it was good!

The rare squares they could activate
For the Worked All Ireland Net.
These “wet” areas of Tyrone
Had not been done as yet!

Discussing same on VHF
Friend Ernie gave a cough!
“Ken McCleod has the best boat
That ever sailed the Lough!”

“Ex Camel Trophy CT7,
Has raced in the Pacific,
Very well equipped – unsinkable!
I think ‘twould be terrific!”

“I’d like to be the first,” said Ern,
“To activate these squares!
My friend Jim will keep the log,
It’s best to work in pairs.”

So G I Zero G D F,
Ernie’s call, you know,
With G I Zero P G C
Jim – and Ken! - agreed to go!

The day arrived, the twenty- ninth,
A Sunday in July.
The weather it was kind to them –
No rain! And some blue sky!

“Be it wind, be it wet, be it hail, be it sleet,
Our boat must sail Lough Neagh;
The three rare areas in Tyrone,
We must activate to-day.”

They hadna sail’d a league, a league,
When the wind began to rise
To twenty knots; and six-foot waves
Brought tears to their eyes!

At thirty knots – the boat was fast –
They head first for Zero Eight;
On the Worked All Ireland frequency
The members chat and wait.

“To Ty-rone, that’s County Ty-rone,
To Ty-rone in mid Lough Neagh;
The rare squares of County Ty-rone
We hope to work to-day.”

The first contact that Ernie made
Was with Noel in Athlone;
Reports of five and nine both ways,
Good signal, strength and tone.

On board was a DX Seventy,
With a Hustler 40 Whip
Hi-Q Res and Triple Mag
It certainly made the trip!

From Brian, G Zero NSL
Who is always QRP,
To Fergus down in Leitrim
Who is E I 6 I B.

Pat, Dublin, EI6DA,
A stalwart of the group;
With EI4HX, EI9CJ
Peter and Tom, in the book.

From Ivan over in Wiltshire –
Call’s G3GKC –
To lovely Les in Lincoln,
Who’s G Zero EJ V.

Jim, who’s EI8 with Whiskey,
It’s a long way to Clonmel;
And Ernie had some diffs
With Mike, EI2CL.

Two Cliffs, one in the West Midlands,
The other in Berwick-on-Tweed;
G4MAR, G3YOG,
Are very pleased indeed!

There’s SRQ and MVQ,
Both calls are GI4 –
George near Armagh and Don in Larne
Delighted to log three more!

Close neighbours are Dick and Brendan,
No problems once again!
OQR and KPF Dungannon,
(GI3OQR & GI0KPF)
Sigs five and nine plus ten.

Mike, BJM was out Mobile
(MD0BJM/M)
On hols in the Isle of Man?
Works WAI, gives WAB
Parishes when he can.

Mike Zero Triple Zulu,
The sleeper in Barnsley town?
And Golf Four Golf Echo Tango,
Ivor in Rotherham.....sound!

The skip was quite good from Skipton
For G4CPA, Geoff,
And if you couldn’t hear Gerry in Gal-
way, (EI2CH)
Your rig really must be deaf!

Only one MI5 on the air,
It was Hugh, HFT, Moneyglass;
Net Control EI6HW,
Noel, the job was First Class!

So Ernie, Jim, and Ken of course,
Got safely back to shore;
A triumphant activation
That had not been done before!

New WAI Squares Activated

On Saturday 29th of July 2001 three new Worked All Ireland Squares were activated for the first time. The areas in question were J06, J07 and J08, all in County Tyrone. The County Tyrone sectors for these squares can only be reached by boat, and they are all located on the central areas of Lough Neagh. The Radio Operators where Ernie GI0GDF and Jim GI0PGC.

The boat owner and friend of Ernie and Jim was Ken McCleod.

The equipment used was an Alinco DX70TH running 100 watts out to a Hustler 40 metre whip with Hi-Q resonator on triple mag mount.

Conditions on the Lough are very deceptive and they encountered 20 knot winds and 6 foot waves, and at times a very bumpy ride.

A good crowd of WAI square chasers where on 7.068 MHz and band conditions where quiet good.

All but an unfortunate few made 2 way contacts from all 3 squares.

Ernie and Jim hope to make this trip an Annual Event.



Jim GI0PGC (left) Ernie GI0PGC (right)

A word from the Boatman



The boat was built by Ribtec of Southampton especially for the Camel Trophy 2000 - the last Camel Trophy.

It is 6.5 metres in length and powered by a single Honda BF130 (130HP) four stroke engine. The boats weighed 1.5 tons and had a range of about 500 miles. It is kitted out with Raytheon flux gate compass, chart plotter, depth sounder and multi instrument (which abbreviates all of the important information for the helmsman).

It has a full range of analogue instruments too including engine tilt, tacho, speedo, fuel efficiency and electronic fuel tank gauges (3). The steering is hydraulic.

The frame was used to carry other equipment such as wake-board, water skis, wave ski and bicycles - as well as the antennas for the GPS, VHF and HF radios - not forgetting a re-righting device - should the boat turn over—and some of them did during the Trophy. The race started from Tonga and ended in Samoa. The winners were team S. Africa. Our boat was the German entry but I don't know where they were placed only that the crew were two girls. The largest single stretch of the Pacific covered in one go was 400 miles.

I was very pleased to take part with Ernie and Jim on the squares. It was nice to do something unique with the boat and I was very touched by the enthusiasm and kind remarks from both our crew and the many hams who received the transmissions. I built my first radio when I was eight or nine - a crystal set of course and by age 12 I had FJ Camm's 'Beginner's Guide to Radio'.

At 14 I won a competition for sending Morse at RAF Locking (ATC). I had both a 38 set and a 19 set at one time - old timers will know what I am talking about. By rights I should have been a ham myself but somehow other things changed my direction in life. I do have that keen interest all the same in what you guys are up to. Best regards

Squares Table August 2001

Call	2m	4m	6m	70cm	23cm	Total
EI5FK	63	0	222	25	0	310
EI7GL	37	8	218	4	0	267
EI3IO	0	0	222	11	0	233
EI4IX	71	0	158	0	0	229
EI3IX	5	2	178	6	0	191
EI3EBB	1	0	186	1	0	188
EI2JD	22	0	161	1	0	184
EI2FSB	6	0	125	2	0	133
EI7CD	0	0	129	0	0	129
EI3IS	0	0	96	0	0	96
EI9IW	4	1	49	3	0	57
EI7FAB	0	3	25	0	0	28
EI4BZ	8	0	0	0	0	8
EI5FZB	6	0	0	0	0	6
EI6FZB	0	1	0	0	0	1
EI7IQ	0	1	0	0	0	1
EI9JA	0	1	0	0	0	1

New entries and updates to Joe Fadden EI3IX
at joe_fadden@yahoo.com

I.R.T.S. Radio News Service

All input for the radio news
should be sent to:

Mark Wall EI7IS
22 Sunshine Crescent,
Waterford
086-6302026 or
ei7is@qsl.net

Deadline is 2100 on Tuesdays
for the following Sunday

Jamboree On The Air October 20/21st

This years annual scouting Jamboree on the air (JOTA) will be held over the weekend of October 20th and 21st.

This is a great opportunity to promote the hobby amongst young people and you should contact your local scout troop soon to make the necessary arrangements.

You could set up at the local scout den or just invite the scouts to visit you in your shack.

Most scout troops or venturer sections would be more than willing to do all the donkey work in getting a station on the air from their den.

Apply for that special event callsign now!

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Book Sales

Books, Maps, Logbooks etc.

S.A.E. To
Peter Grant, EI4HX
37 Glenmore Park,
Dundalk,
Co. Louth

Telephone 042-9332641

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Video Library

**Selection of radio related
videos available.**

Jim Ryan, EI3DP,
11 Knockgriffin,
Midleton,
Co. Cork.

Telephone 021-4632365

EI5CRC

Cork Radio Club

EI5CRC

10th Annual Rally

Blarney Park Hotel, Blarney, Co. Cork

Sunday , September 16th

Doors open at 1100

Admission £3.00

**For further information
Contact Dick EI6HH at 021-4545154**

Phoenix Amateur Radio Club

Euro Radio Rally

Coolmine Community School

Sunday February 24th 2002

Doors open at 1100

Admission 3 Euros

Car Parking available

Tea Bar and sandwiches

Further details from Tom EI2AJ at QTHR

Come and enjoy the first Euroland rally

The first.....and.....the best

Members Advertisements

For Sale: Steel lattice 44 foot free standing hot dipped galvanised tower. Two sections.. Complete with full size G5RV and 2 metre, marine band and discone antenna. Price £250.00
Telephone 096-34168

For Sale: CDX VHF/UHF, ATU Pwr/ SWR Meter
Frequency 136 to 460 MHz.
Boxed, as new..... £30
Phone 0503-40086/087-716895.

For Sale: Yaesu FT847 with FC20 Auto ATU. As new. Boxed.
Communications Receiver Type PCRB. Made by Invicta Radio Ltd., England.
Hygain 3 Element Triband Beam Mk3. Cooling fan to suit Yaesu FT101.
Telephone 061-397004

For Sale: The following books:
HF Antenna Collection;
Scanners 1, 2, 3 & 4
HF Antennas for all Locations;
The Antenna Experimenters Guide;
Practical Antennas for Novices;
The UK Scanning Directory;
Surplus Two Way Radio Conversion Handbook;
Scanners Busters 2.
Telephone 061-397004

Home Exchange: For weekend anywhere in Ireland. Elevated scenic view overlooking Crosshaven village, Owenabue Estuary, Inner Harbour, Cork Yacht Club & Marinas.
12 Miles Cork City.
QSO EI2FB

Incoming QSL Bureau Special Event Stations

The Incoming QSL Bureau Manager, Pat EI2HX, is holding a large amount of Special Event QSL cards. These have 3 and 2 letter call signs. He has no information on where to forward these cards to.

If you or your club have activated a Special Event Station over the last few years, could you please contact him with the relevant information.

Contact Pat EI2HX@QTHR
or
patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com